

House Resolution 83

By: Representatives Brooks of the 63rd, Williams of the 165th, Abdul-Salaam of the 74th, Benfield of the 85th, and Mangham of the 94th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Honoring the life and memory of Reverend James L. Bevel; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the State of Georgia mourns the passing of the charismatic and influential
3 Reverend James L. Bevel on December 19, 2008; and
- 4 WHEREAS, Reverend Bevel was born on October 19, 1936, in Itta Bena, Mississippi, one
5 of 17 children; and
- 6 WHEREAS, as a teenager, Reverend Bevel worked in the steel mills of Cleveland, Ohio, and
7 appeared to be headed towards a career in pop music, when he was called to the ministry; and
- 8 WHEREAS, Reverend Bevel enrolled in the American Baptist Theological Seminary in
9 Nashville, Tennessee, where he also joined the local chapter of the Southern Christian
10 Leadership Conference; and
- 11 WHEREAS, Reverend Bevel was known for his great contributions to the civil rights
12 movement as an adviser to Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr., persuading the leader to allow
13 children to participate in antisegregation demonstrations; and
- 14 WHEREAS, known for his eloquently quick-witted vernacular, Reverend Bevel was also a
15 loud opponent of the United States involvement in Vietnam and was instrumental in Dr.
16 King's views opposing the war; and
- 17 WHEREAS, this influential leader will long be remembered for his pivotal role in the
18 American Civil Rights Movement and his influence and counsel for Dr. Martin Luther King,
19 Jr.
- 20 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
21 this body hereby joins in honoring the life and memory of Reverend James L. Bevel and

22 expressing its appreciation of his many contributions to the American Civil Rights
23 Movement.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
25 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to Reverend Bevel's family.